Bureau of Health Policy and Vital Statistics

ONLINE VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (OVS)

One of the major objectives of the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) project is to implement the Social Security Administration's Online Verification of Social Security Number (OVS). Through the OVS, a decedent's social security number that is reported through the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) will be directly transmitted to the Social Security Administration for electronic verification. Funeral Homes will receive notification through the OVS regarding the accuracy of the social security number as compared with the name, sex, and date of birth reported on the death record.

BENEFITS OF THE OVS

➢ Funeral Homes who agree to participate in the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) will no longer have to submit Form SSA-721 to the Social Security Administration.

➢ The accuracy of the Online Verification of Social Security Number (OVS) will significantly reduce the need to later amend the death record because of irregularities in the data entry of demographic information.

➢ A decedent's social security number which is verified by the Social Security Administration will ensure accuracy for families when applying for life insurance or social security benefits.

➢ The expedited submission of death reports will permit the Social Security Administration to save significant program dollars by preventing incorrect payments and reducing significant Agency work years annually.

Individual Funeral Homes who decide not to utilize the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) will still be required to continue submitting form SSA-721 directly to the Social Security Administration.

We encourage you to participate directly in the online verification of social security number by becoming an EDRS participant.